

26 AUG 1948

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773

GENERAL

1. UK favors postponement on Libya and Eritrea--UK Foreign Secretary Bevin has informed US Ambassador Douglas that he is most anxious that a common US-UK-French policy be worked out before the September General Assembly meeting. Bevin prefers a two or three-year postponement of a decision on Libya and Northern Eritrea but believes that agreement can be reached on giving the Danakil coast to Ethiopia immediately. Bevin indicates that during this postponement the UK would expect to be released from the restrictive obligations of The Hague Convention in order that a civil administration could be installed and internal reforms instituted. Although Bevin still hopes that at the end of this period the US would accept trusteeship over Tripolitania, he would not in principle oppose Italian trusteeship if he were satisfied by then that the return of the Italians would not cause serious disturbances which might involve British troops. US Ambassador Douglas agrees on the desirability of three-power accord but believes it improbable that the GA would agree to a long postponement.

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EUROPE

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2. GREECE: US observer says effective Satellite aid is continuing: US Embassy Athens transmits an estimate by the US military adviser to the Balkan Commission that General Markos is still receiving sufficient aid from Albania, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria to maintain his present scale of operations. The US observer considers it significant that Yugoslavia has continued to co-operate with the guerrillas even after the Tito-Cominform break.

Government considers firing on guerrillas in Albania--
The Department of State has informed US Embassy Athens of the receipt of a note from the Greek Ambassador referring to alleged instances of the use of Albanian territory by the guerrillas and of firing from Albania into Greece. The Department indicates that

DIA & DOS review(s) completed.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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in the note the Greek Government declared it has found it necessary to consider firing from Greece into Albania in order to prevent the repetition of such incidents. The Department informally advised the Ambassador that the Greek Government should continue to submit to the UN Balkan Committee all available evidence of Albania's cooperation with the guerrillas but should avoid any precipitate action which might compromise the previous excellent record of Greek forbearance and adversely affect the Greek case before the UN.

NEAR EAST-AFRICA

25X1

3. PALESTINE: Reported concern over Israeli UN membership--
Concerning possible US support for Israeli membership in the UN, US Minister Keeley in Damascus comments that recent Israeli expansionist statements seem to indicate that Israel is neither peace-loving nor disposed to carry out the obligations of the UN Charter. Keeley relays the opinion of some of his diplomatic colleagues that such encouragement of Israel by the US will only further antagonize the Arabs and thus make more difficult any eventual compromise.

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